

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Hardel Mutual Plywood Corp.

Washington Manufacturing Services

Hardel Mutual Plywood Implements Preventative Maintenance Program

Client Profile:

Hardel Mutual Plywood is a plywood manufacturer located in Chehalis, Washington. The company has 210 employees.

Situation:

Hardel Mutual Plywood was looking for ways to improve internal communications, maintenance response time, and equipment availability. The company contacted Washington Manufacturing Services (WMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

WMS met with Hardel Mutual Plywood to review the project requirements, and recommended the company work with Dave Lecker, a consultant and WMS partner experienced in maintenance programs. Mr. Lecker helped Hardel Mutual Plywood develop a new maintenance software and hardware package tailored to its specific needs. Mr. Lecker also conducted training in the concept of total preventative maintenance, teaching company employees how to schedule regular machine inspections, maintain accurate machine and work history records, and keep availability reports. He also helped Hardel Mutual Plywood develop identical machine center and financial reporting codes, create an internal "message center" for e-mail communications, and establish a new purchasing module for maintenance spare parts.

Results:

Improved communications within the maintenance department and between maintenance and operations.

Developed an efficient reporting system to maintain equipment availability in the high 90 percent range.

Improved work environment by increasing employee awareness of machine uptime.

Testimonial:

"The preventive maintenance program [offered by Washington Manufacturing Services and Dave Lecker], including the software and hardware package and employee training, helped us focus our resources on priorities. The report[ing] capabilities will help improve communications throughout the facility."

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Steve Burbage, Maintenance Superintendent